Preservation Plan

for the

West Part Cemetery
Pittsfield, Massachusetts

prepared for the
City of Pittsfield

by

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC
Monument Conservation Collaborative, LLC

2021

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70 Allen Street – City Hall
Pittsfield, MA 01201

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Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC
313 Elm Street
Northampton, MA 01060
413-586-4178
www.marthalyon.com

Monument Conservation Collaborative, LLC
P.O. Box 541
Norfolk, CT 06058
860-309-6695
www.mcc-monument-conservation.com

2021

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CONTENTS

Introduction 1

West Part Cemetery in History 3

Landscape Assessment 9

Recommendations 19

Management 23

Appendices:
A: Historical Chronology A-1
B: Conditions Assessment and Conservation Recommendations B-1
C: Bibliography C-1

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INTRODUCTION

West Part Cemetery lies near the west edge of Pittsfield, near the Hancock town line and below West Mountain. Established in ca. 1813, the small, intimate property accepted interments for only 46 years. Most graves appear to be those of individuals living in the area during the early 1800s, and a large percentage were children under the age of ten. Like East Part Cemetery, its counterpart on the other side of the City, West Part became largely inactive around 1850, after the opening of the large, modern Pittsfield Cemetery. Unlike East Part, which became the Pittsfield Cemetery's responsibility, the care of West Part remained in the City's hands and continues to be today.

West Part Cemetery, established ca. 1813, emerged as a final resting place for individuals living on the west site of the City. It contains approximately 48 known interments, many of which were children under the age of 10. It served as an active cemetery for only 46 years.

The one-quarter acre property contains approximately 48 known interments and 65 head and footstones and is enclosed, in part, by the remnants of a wood picket fence. For years, a neighbor cared for the property, volunteering his time to mow the lawn and maintain the fence. When he no longer could, the City assumed the task. Today, the property's age, combined with ongoing exposure to harsh weather, has led to deterioration. Many grave markers lean or have fallen, and the fence is falling apart. The condition conveys an overall sense of neglect and lack of respect for one of the City's oldest historic landscapes.

In 2019, a group of concerned citizens, spearheaded by the Pittsfield Historical Commission and Parks, Open Space and Natural Resources, program launched an effort to upgrade the West Part Cemetery landscape. The group applied for and received funding through Pittsfield's Community Preservation Act program to develop a long-term plan for the cemetery, one that would guide preservation efforts and management activities. The foregoing *West Part Cemetery Preservation Plan* is a result of this effort.

Project Goal & Objectives

Through this project, the City of Pittsfield aimed to devise a plan for preserving and enhancing the West Part Cemetery landscape. The goal included upgrading appearance, improving access, and expanding the cemetery's role in interpreting Pittsfield's history to visitors and residents. Objectives for meeting this goal included:

- Researching the historical development of the landscape as a means for establishing its historical significance;

- Documenting existing landscape conditions
- Assessing condition of landscape features, including gravestones
- Making recommendations for preservation; and
- Providing guidelines for long-term maintenance.

Program of Improvements

At the commencement of the project, the City identified the following to be addressed in the preservation plan:

- Circulation and parking, including improvement of way(s) for visitors to reach the cemetery, park, and access the entrance;

- Curb appeal. including enhancement of views of the cemetery from West Street and proposing an alternative to the fence and gates; and

- Signs, including the introduction of wayfinding, identification, and interpretive signs, and the integration, where possible, of technology into the signs.

Curb appeal, including upgrades to the fencing, gates and the sign, were identified by the City as needing exploration in the Preservation Plan.

WEST PART CEMETERY in HISTORY

Beginnings - Before ca. 1813.

Before the early 1700s, the rolling hills of the upper branches of the Housatonic River were known as Pontoosuc (or Pontoosuck), home to the Stockbridge-Munsee band of Mohicans, members of the Algonquian tribe.[1] The Mohican Nation describes the land as "covered with red spruce, elm, pine, oak, birch and maple trees" and carved by "sparking rivers teem[ing] with herring, shad, trout and other fish."[2] By the 1730s, land disputes, cultural conflicts, and diseases (brought by Europeans) had diminished the native population's size and the remaining Mohicans eventually retreated westward where they were welcomed by the Oneida band of the Iroquois.

In 1738, Jacob Wendell purchased land in Pontoosuc for speculative purposes, and five years later, a group from Westfield migrated north and west, intent on settling the area. Land in the west part of Pittsfield, near the Hancock town line, comprised some of the early settling lots. By the 1750s, the settlement had incorporated as Pontoosuc Plantation with a population of about 200, and an economy centered on farming and trade for communities in the Berkshires. In 1761, when the plantation incorporated as the Township of Pittsfield, farming continued to dominate the economy but gradually shifted to industry after the Revolutionary War, first woolen looms and later paper and shoes.

A view of Pontoosuc Lake from Constitution Hill illustrates the area's natural beauty; trees, lakes and streams punctuate rolling hills. (Hand-colored postcard, ca. 1904)

Establishment & Active Years – ca. 1813-1859

Little known documentation exists about the origins of the one-quarter-acre, rectangular burial ground, located on the south side of West Street that actively received burials for less than fifty years. The 65 head and footstones, many of which are illegible, provide hints to the date of the cemetery's establishment, and who it served.[3] The earliest visible death date is 1813, seen on stones marking the graves of Frederick West (1787-1813) and Jonathan Stow (1780-1813). Five other individuals were interred during the 1810s, Clarissa Root (1769-1814), Mary Kenny (1787-1814), Addison L. West (1802-1816), and Augustus C. May (1816-1817). A fourth broken and partially illegible stone marks three interments, Harriet, Rosanna, and

[1] The Mohican lands extended from what is now Lake Champlain south nearly to Manhattan Island and on both sides of the Hudson River, west to Scoharie Creek and east into Massachusetts, Vermont and Connecticut

[2] www.mohican.com

[3] The number 65 was established during the gravestone assessment portion of this project (discussed in later sections of the plan). Note that at least 15 of these stones are footstones.

Mary (last name not visible), all of whom may have perished in 1816. These nine burials represent nearly one-fifth of the known interments. Eight burials took place in the 1820s, six in the 1830s, seven in the 1840s, and the remaining seven in the 1850s. Approximately one-third (fourteen) of the burials were of children under the age of ten, the youngest, Henry J. Brown, just seven weeks and four days old.[4]

Some of the burials may have been of persons associated with the Pittsfield Alms House, which stood on the north side of West Street opposite the cemetery, as early as 1831.[5] This institution provided refuge and medical care for those of little means, and eventually mental health services. One individual interred at the cemetery who allegedly died at the Alms House in 1852 was Moses Foster (1812-1852), father of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment soldier of the same name.[6] Foster, a descendent of slaves, and his wife, Orinda (1813-1859), as well as Foster's sister Sabra (1804-1839) are three known African Americans interred at West Part Cemetery.[7]

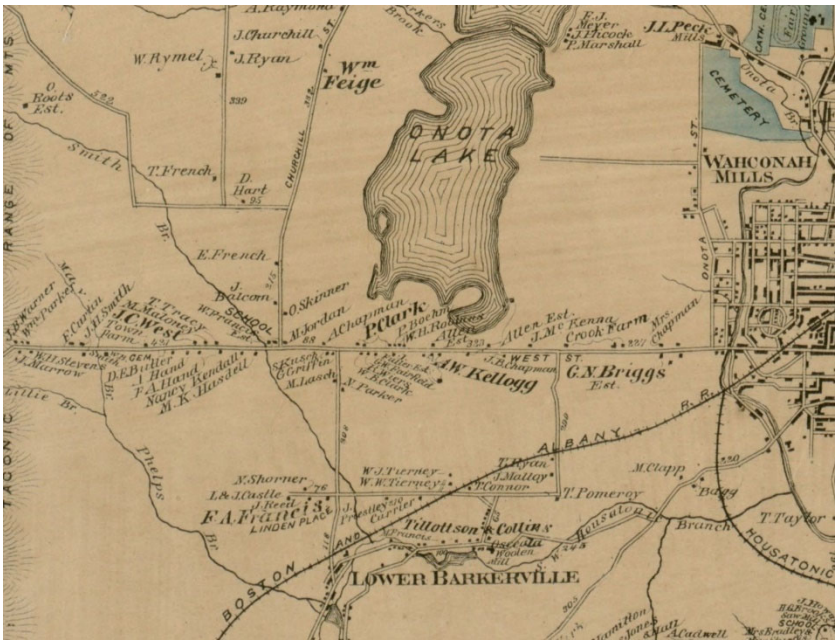
The 1858 Walling map of Pittsfield showed the cemetery with the Alms House across West Street. J. B. Warner served as superintendent. (Berkshire Athenaeum)

Other graves are likely associated with families living in the West Part of Pittsfield in the early 1800s, including the Root, Hubbard, Foster, May, West and Mullen families. The 1858 map of Pittsfield shows each of these families living within a small radius of the cemetery. J. B. Warner is listed on the map as superintendent of the Alms House, and the graves of two Warner babies lie within the cemetery.

West Part Cemetery's layout reflected a style typical of Colonial era burying grounds. Individuals were interred in short rows, sometimes alongside other family members. Graves were individually marked or held the names of husband and wife, siblings, or a combination thereof. All of the gravestones were carved from marble, likely extracted from the limestone vein that extends north-south through Berkshire County.[8] It is not known whether the property was fenced, although some type of enclosure made of an impermanent material, such as a wood fence, may have existed. The property contained no paths or roads and was likely devoid of trees and other large vegetation.

[4] Massachusetts GenWeb Project data, 1995.
[5] While the official establishment of this institution was ca. 1831, a "pest house" may have stood on land across West Street from the cemetery as early as 1817.
[6] According to Housatonic Heritage, Moses Foster the soldier (1844-1913) is believed to have been interred at the Pittsfield Cemetery in an unmarked grave.
[7] The elder Foster was the son of Flora ("Old Flora") Foster, who escaped slavery in the 1780s, fleeing from New York to Massachusetts. She was taken in by Orrin Goodnell, and worked as a domestic for the Goodrich, West, and Pomeroy families. She married Peter Foster and had at least two children, Sabra and Moses. (Levinson, 159)
[8] A marble quarry stood to the north of the cemetery, near the west edge of Lake Onota.

In 1850, the large privately-owned Pittsfield Cemetery opened on Waconah Street near the center of the downtown. With the addition of this expansive non-denominational facility, the small burying grounds, including both East Part and West Part, were no longer needed. The last known interment at West Part, that of Orinda Foster, happened in 1859.



The 1876 Beers Atlas shows the cemetery opposite the "Town Farm." The new Pittsfield Cemetery appears in the upper righthand corner of the image. (Berkshire Athenaeum)

Neglect – 1860-1970

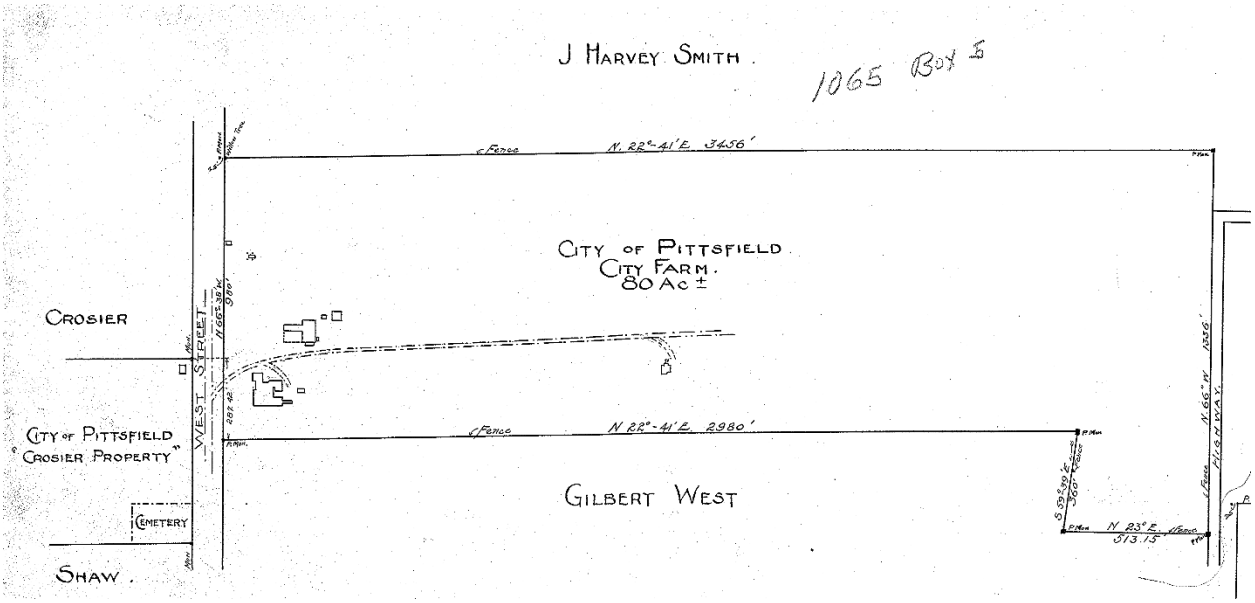
Beginning in the middle of the 19th century, land in much of the West Part of Pittsfield was converted from agriculture to large residential properties, including those owned by Abel West and sons John and Gilbert, and George Nixon Briggs, 19th Governor of Massachusetts. The Alms House was also referred to as the "town farm" as early as 1876, and remained in operation into the 20th century.

The Alms House or "City Farm," likely around 1900, included a large farmhouse, as well as several outbuildings. West Part Cemetery stood across West Street (to the south). (City of Pittsfield Annual Report, 1900)

As residents began to favor the new Pittsfield Cemetery, West Part gradually declined. Writing in his 1869 history of Pittsfield, Joseph Smith described the cemetery as "overgrown by woods and only recognized by a few sunken and moss-covered headstones which may be seen by the traveler, on his left hand, as he begins to ascend the mountain, on the road to Lebanon Springs." The woods referred to by Smith may actually have been a planting of evergreens. In 1879, a tornado swept through Pittsfield, damaging the cemetery. The Berkshire Eagle reported that,

> "[t]he people of the West Part have to mourn, among their losses by the late tornado, serious injury to the little burial ground which, greatly to their credit, they had very tastefully adorned and planted with pines which had grown to a fine grove. The wind

swept through it breaking off the tops of the greater part of the trees as sharply as though they had been cut with an axe and throwing them into the neighboring fields."[9]



A 1906 drawing of the City Farm property shows the cemetery at the northeast corner of property owned by the City of Pittsfield, known as the "Crosier Property." The City Farm consisted of 80 acres, located in both Pittsfield and Hancock, and held the main residence building, as well as several outbuildings. (City of Pittsfield Archive)

By 1906, the land surrounding the cemetery was owned by the City and known as the "Crosier Property." The Crosier family would continue to own and occupy land near the cemetery into the late 1900s. At some point, the City fenced the property.

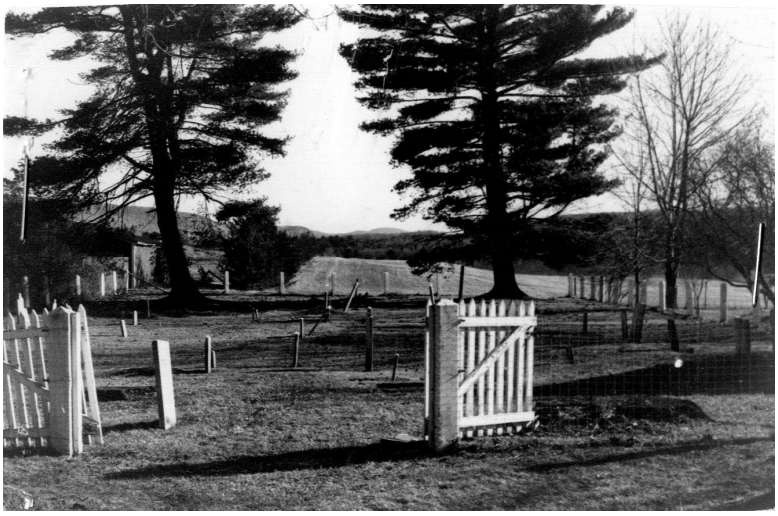
Modernization & Preservation– 1970s-Present

In the late 1960s, the State of Massachusetts began the construction of Berkshire Community College and associated parking lots on land across West Street from the cemetery that once held the Alms House, or City Farm, shifting the cemetery context from rural and agricultural to modern and institutional. In 1986, a group home facility was built to the southwest of the cemetery, altering long views.

Little is known about the status of the cemetery grounds during much of the 20th century, however in 1972, the Berkshire Eagle reported on the property. Roy Crosier, 84, owner of the adjacent property, approached the Mayor, saying that the fence was beyond repair and that a new one needed to be erected. Crosier, a retired carpenter, had been taking care of the cemetery for years. The volunteer youth corps offered to maintain the cemetery at no charge to the City. The Mayor also reportedly planned to ask the County Sheriff to have a fence built around the cemetery with prison labor. It is not known whether this effort ever took place, or whether the existing fence consists of remnants from the effort. An inventory form, prepared in 1981 as part of a Massachusetts Historical Commission "inventory scanning project" included a

[9] (Title Missing), *Berkshire Eagle*, 1879.

photograph of the cemetery, with concrete posts lining the edges and a wood picket gate centered along the north side. The cemetery contained two white pine trees, located near the south end, the westernmost of which remains. Most of the gravestones appear to be standing erect. In 2003, an Eagle Scout took on the project of straightening the headstones, removing brush and dead leaves, and repairing the fence.



West Part Cemetery, photographed in 1981 for an inventory scanning project of the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The concrete fence posts are intact along the edges, and a wood picket gate forms an entrance along the north side. (MHC Inventory Form, PIT.825)

In 2019 a group of citizens concerned about the cemetery's condition launched an effort to restore West Part, applying to and receiving an award from Pittsfield's Community Preservation Act program to develop a long-term plan. The foregoing *West Part Cemetery Preservation Plan* is the result of this effort.

Period of Historical Significance

The period of historical significance for West Part Cemetery spans the years 1813 through 1859. During this time, the property was established as a place of interment, likely to serve the small population living on the west side of Pittsfield and possibly those living at the nearby Alms House (or City Farm). By 1850, with the opening of the large, modern Pittsfield Cemetery, need for interment space at West Part declined. After 1859, burials no longer took place, and the cemetery became inactive. Efforts to preserve the cemetery should reflect the character of the landscape during this 46-year period.

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LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT

The following section of the Preservation Plan is an assessment of the existing landscape conditions at West Part Cemetery. Its purpose is to document the natural, built and functional features; to analyze their condition; and to outline preliminary recommendations for preservation treatment. Together with information about the cemetery's historical development, this assessment provides a foundation for the overall plan.

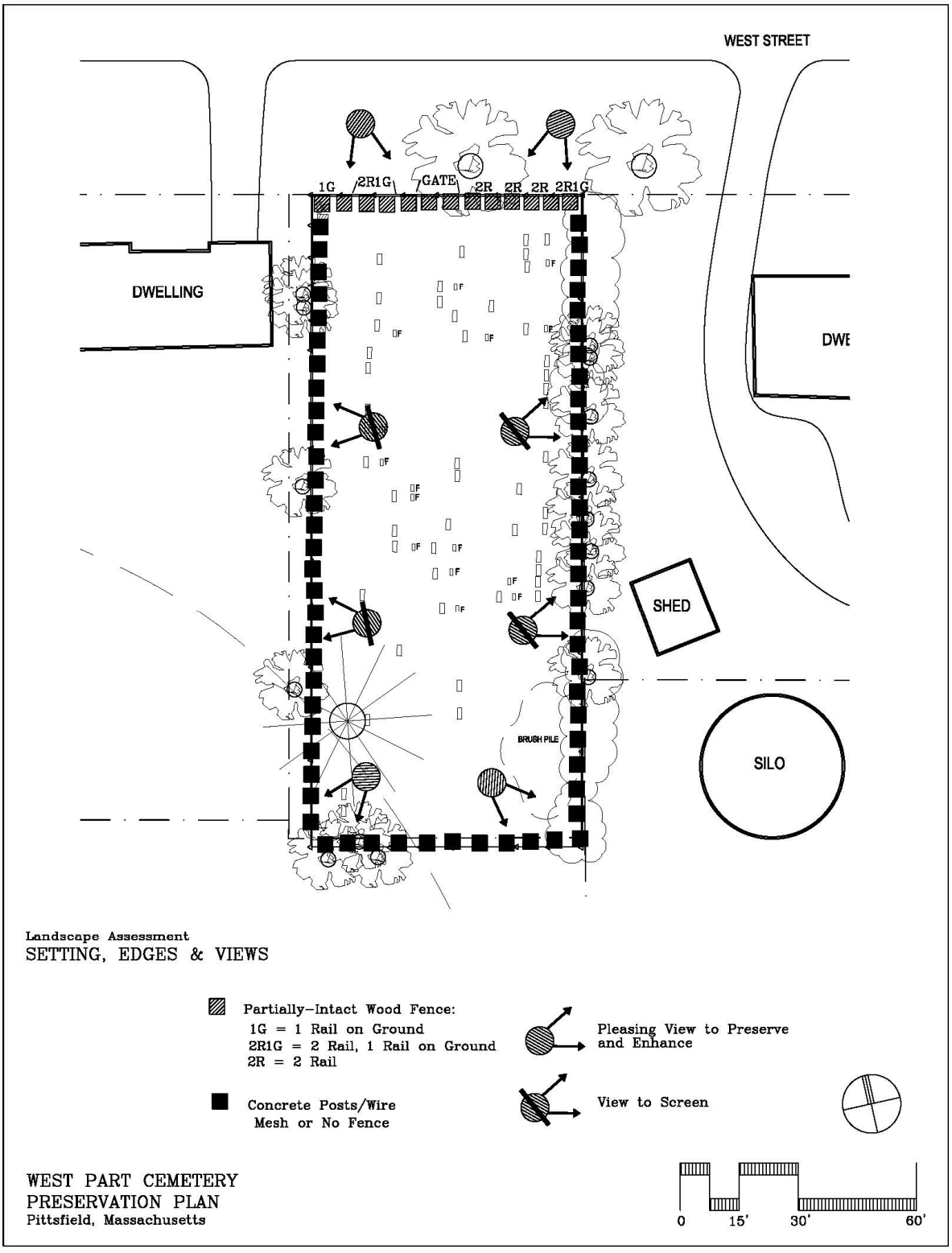
Setting

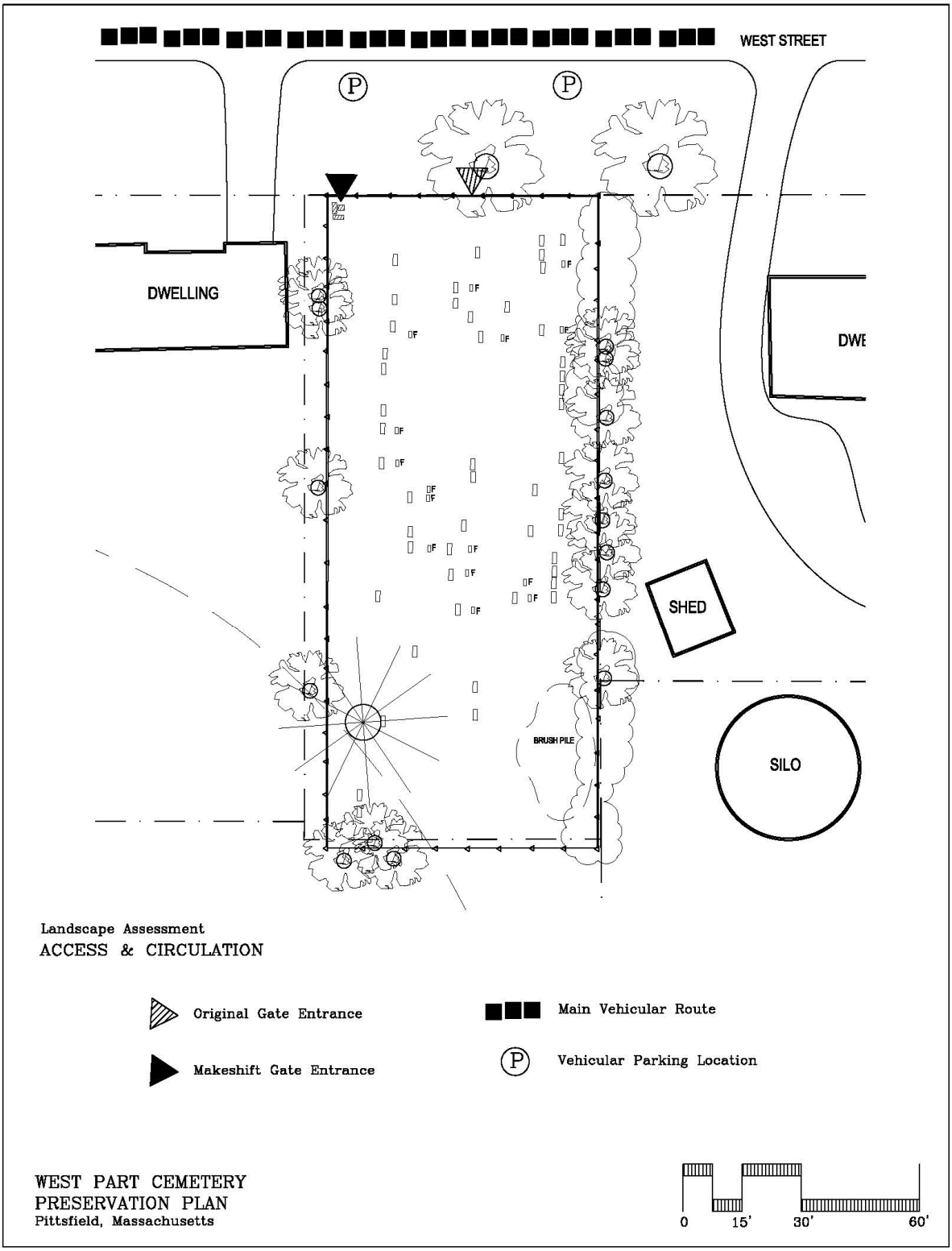
As its name implies, West Part Cemetery lies in the far western section of Pittsfield, near the Hancock town line on the south side of West Street. Small peaks of the Taconic Range – West, Doll, and Shaker Mountains, and Mount Lebanon – appear to the west, and to the north and south is a gently eastward sloping plateau. To the east is the City of Pittsfield, including its downtown civic and commercial buildings, as well as its western residential suburbs. The academic buildings, playing fields, and parking lots associated with Berkshire Community College stand near the cemetery on its western side. Immediately adjacent to the cemetery are West Street (north), private residences (east and west) and an assisted living/skilled nursing center (south). The paved portion of West Street terminates near the base of West Mountain, and because of this, vehicular traffic on West Street is limited to residents, affiliates of the college and users of the athletic fields. The setting, as a result, is a relatively quiet one when school is not in session.

A view from inside the cemetery westward captures the buildings of Berkshire Community College and lower peaks of the Taconic Range. Immediately adjacent to the cemetery is a private residence.

Edges & Views

The remnants of some type of fence structure edge the entire cemetery boundary. Triangular-shaped concrete posts, standing approximately 48" high and between six and ten feet apart, mark the boundary. Across the north edge, along West Street, pieces of what was once a two-rail wood fence connect some of the posts. Some of these rails lie on the ground. A double-leaf wood picket fence, painted white, marks a central entrance and while intact, the paint has peeled and the gates lean inward off their hinges. Overall, the wood fence and gates are in poor condition and their dilapidated state conveys impression of neglect. The 48" high concrete posts surround the remainder of the cemetery, and most stand fairly plumb. On the


WEST STREET
1G
2R1G
GATE
2R
2R
2R
2R1G
DWELLING
DWE
SHED
SILO
BRUSH PILE
Landscape Assessment
SETTING, EDGES & VIEWS
Partially-Intact Wood Fence:
1G = 1 Rail on Ground
2R1G = 2 Rail, 1 Rail on Ground
2R = 2 Rail
Concrete Posts/Wire Mesh or No Fence
Pleasing View to Preserve and Enhance
View to Screen
WEST PART CEMETERY
PRESERVATION PLAN
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
0
15'
30'
60'


WEST STREET
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BRUSH PILE
Landscape Assessment
ACCESS & CIRCULATION
Original Gate Entrance
Makeshift Gate Entrance
Main Vehicular Route
P
Vehicular Parking Location
WEST PART CEMETERY
PRESERVATION PLAN
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
0
15'
30'
60'

east and west sides, wire mesh fencing has been applied to one side of the posts. The mesh has deteriorated and no longer forms a smooth barrier between the cemetery and adjacent neighbors. On the east, a set of deciduous trees and invasive shrubs have volunteered, creating a hedgerow type barrier that reinforces the edge. On the west, a double-liter red maple and some small shrubs partially-obstruct views into the neighbor's yard. The south edge contains no fencing but is reinforced by a pair of deciduous trees near the southwest corner.

The north edge of West Part Cemetery is lined with the remnants of a wooden two-rail fence and double-leaf entry gate. Both are in deteriorated condition.

Views into and out of the cemetery correspond with the quality of the edges. The most outstanding views are possible from the north edge looking southward into and across the cemetery. Because the cemetery interior contains only one tree located near the southwest corner, most of the gravestones are visible from the north edge. Pleasing views are also possible from inside the cemetery looking south, much of which is farmland and forest. Less pleasing views to be screened include those from inside the cemetery looking eastward and westward into the domestic spaces of the adjacent residences. Both properties are very well maintained, but the lack of screening, particularly on the west, allows cemetery visitors to view homeowners' private activities.

Access & Circulation

The cemetery contains no roads or designated parking areas, so visitors arriving by vehicle pull off West Street onto a 30' wide grassy strip of right-of-way between the edge of pavement and cemetery fence. Pedestrians may access the property on foot, however because West Street does not contain sidewalks on either edge, visitors must walk along the road shoulder. From their parked car or road shoulder, visitors descend a moderate slope to the reach the entrance. The degree of this slope may exceed accessibility standards. Visitors may enter through the double-leaf gate or through a makeshift entrance formed by a failed portion of fence at the northwest corner. From here, they must walk over grass and groundcover lawn to see the gravestones.

Visitors to the cemetery must park along West Street and descend a slope to reach the cemetery entrance. The property contains no designate parking areas or paths.

While relatively flat, the cemetery lacks established pathways, and the unevenness of its grade may pose navigation difficulties to some visitors.

The one tree growing inside the cemetery is a 48" caliper white pine.

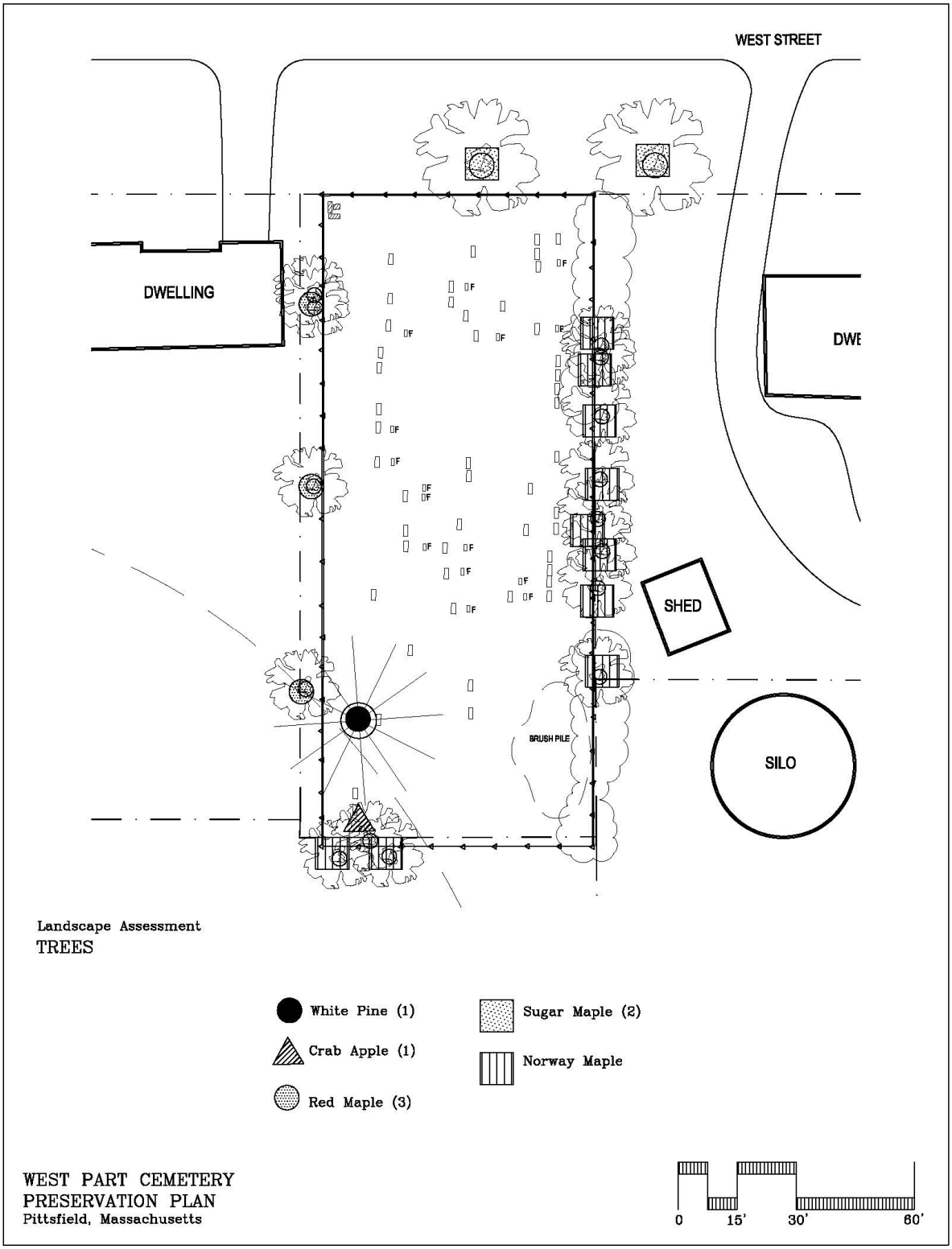
Trees

As noted above under Edges & Views, the cemetery contains only one tree on its grounds, a 48" caliper white pine (*Pinus strobus*) growing at near the southwest corner. Along the north edge outside the cemetery entrance gate but in the public right-of way are two mature sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*) and pin oak (*Quercus palustrus*), both of which appear to be in good condition, with no visible structural deficiencies. The pine is very senior and likely nearing the end of its life, and may in the near future delimb, causing damage to the gravestones. Additional Norway maple and red maple as well as one crab apple grow along the cemetery edges, and ownership of these has not been established. Trees along the east edge (all Norway maples) appear to have volunteered and are crowding one another, resulting in a messy appearance.

Gravestones

A view of the cemetery from the northwest corner shows the many stones that are tilted and the severity of the tilt.

As noted earlier in this plan, the cemetery contains approximately 65 head and footstones dating from 1813 until 1859. An assessment of their condition revealed that 44 of the stones are in need of conservation treatment, with the largest group, 30, severely tilted and requiring resetting. Some may require new bases to ensure future stability. One has fallen completely and will need resetting, and two have fractured and will require reconstruction. The cause of the tilting is unknown; however one likely factor is the hydrological condition of the cemetery soils. If the water table is high, the soil will freeze and thaw, causing movement in the stones. For a detailed account of the stones' condition, a map showing locations of stones requiring treatment, as well as conservation treatment recommendations, refer to *Appendix B, Condition Assessments and Conservation Recommendations for West Part Cemetery*.


WEST STREET
DWELLING
DWE
SHED
SILO
BRUSH PILE
Landscape Assessment
TREES
White Pine (1)
Crab Apple (1)
Red Maple (3)
Sugar Maple (2)
Norway Maple
WEST PART CEMETERY
PRESERVATION PLAN
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
0
15'
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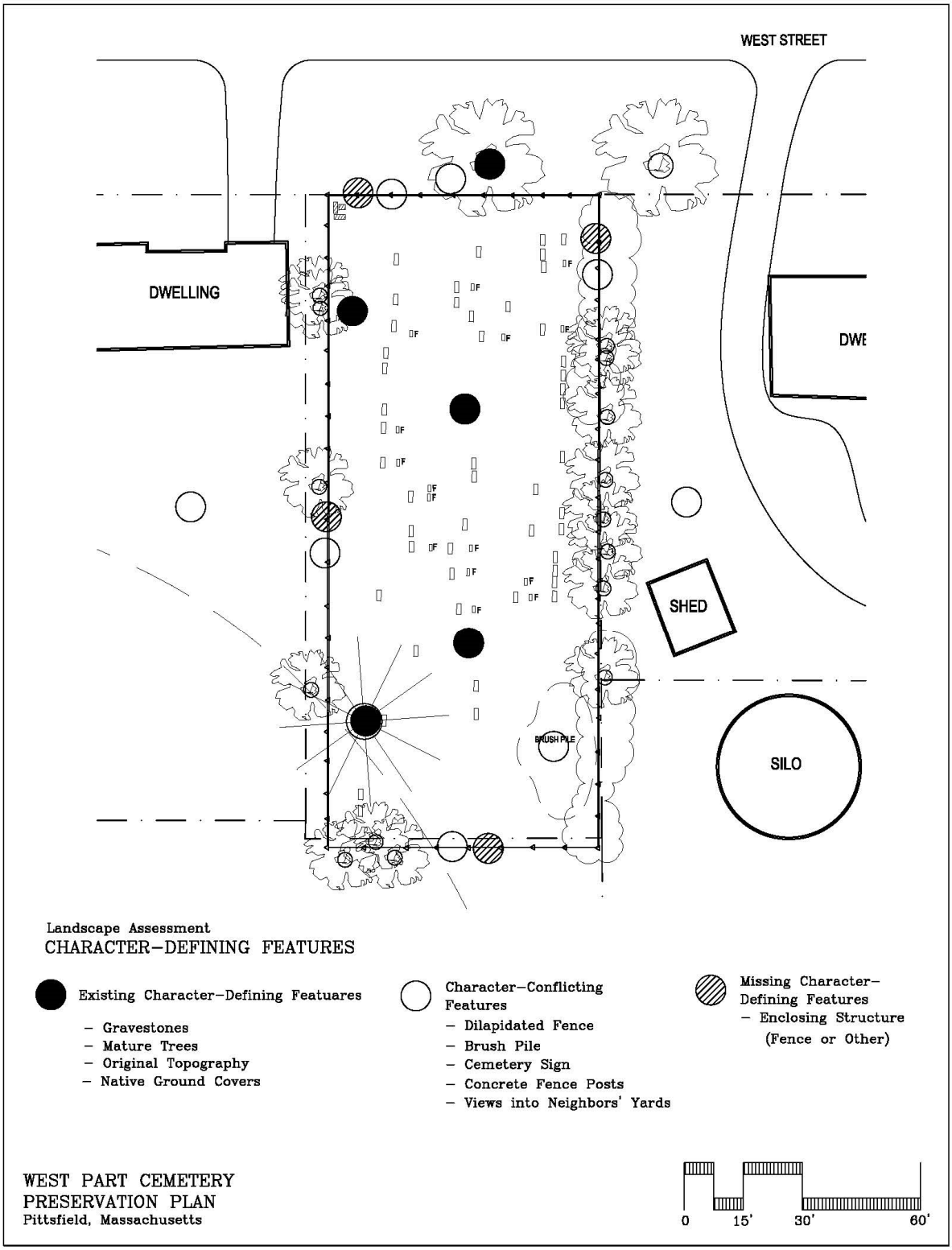
WEST STREET
DWELLING
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BRUSH PILE
Landscape Assessment
CHARACTER–DEFINING FEATURES
Existing Character–Defining Featuares
– Gravestones
– Mature Trees
– Original Topography
– Native Ground Covers
Character–Conflicting Features
– Dilapidated Fence
– Brush Pile
– Cemetery Sign
– Concrete Fence Posts
– Views into Neighbors' Yards
Missing Character–Defining Features
– Enclosing Structure (Fence or Other)
WEST PART CEMETERY
PRESERVATION PLAN
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
0
15'
30'
60'

Cemetery Sign

A metal sign panel attached to a metal frame stands near the front gate to the cemetery, identifying the property by name and conveying its date of establishment (1814). A small American flag has been applied to be back side of the sign's upper righthand corner. While the black lettering on a white background is visible to passersby, paint has begun to chip off the sign panel, resulting in an unkempt appearance.

The metal sign marking the cemetery is visible to passersby, but paint has begun to chip off the panel, resulting in an unkempt appearance.

Character Defining Features

The West Part Cemetery landscape contains several features that both add to and detract from its historic character, most of which are discussed above. In summary, the existing features that support the historic character include:

- Original, unaltered topography
- Mature white pine and sugar maple trees
- Gravestones
- Native groundcover

Contemporary features that detract from the historic character include:

- Dilapidated fencing and gates
- Cemetery sign
- Brush pile at southeast corner
- Concrete fence posts
- Views into neighbors' back yards
- Invasive shrub species growing along the edges

Finally, historic features that may have once augmented the cemetery include an intact fence and gate and additional trees.

Bloodroot (Sanguinaria canadensis), a native wildflower, grows next to a grave near the western edge.

Preliminary Recommendations

Future preservation efforts at West Part Cemetery will involve each of the four treatment methods outlined by the United States Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Properties* (1996). They include:

- *Preservation*, where existing form integrity and materials of the landscape will be sustained;
- *Rehabilitation*, where features in the landscape will be repaired or altered to make their use compatible with the landscape's historical value;
- *Restoration*, where landscape features will be returned to their original form; and
- *Reconstruction*, where landscape features no longer extant will be restored.

Based on the preceding assessment, the following preliminary recommendations should be considered for the Preservation Plan. Note that the recommendations do not appear in order of importance or priority.

- Work with adjacent property-owners, especially on the east side, to clear edges of invasive growth and low-quality and/or invasive trees;

- Replant the edges to provide a screen between the neighbors and cemetery;

- Remove the concrete fence posts and dilapidated wood fence/gates and replace with a new enclosure, made of a more permanent material, such as stone;

- Create an accessible path leading from the West Street edge to the cemetery gate;

- Work with Berkshire Community College to provide designated parking spaces for cemetery visitors;

- Develop a sign program that provides wayfinding, identification, and interpretative information;

- Treat the 44 stones identified in the Conditions Assessment as in need of conservation treatment;

- Remove the large brush pile located near the southwest corner and replace with a shade tree and/or native groundcover.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Preservation Projects

This section of the Preservation Plan provides specific recommendations for preserving the West Part Cemetery landscape. Organized around a series of five "preservation projects," the recommendations aim, as much as possible, to restore the landscape to the period of significance, 1813 – 1859 when the cemetery served as a place of interment for individuals living on Pittsfield's west side. The recommendations (1) preserve existing historic features; (2) reconstruct lost historic features; and (3) rehabilitate the landscape, as necessary, to accommodate the property's current and future use as a commemorative place and heritage site. The preservation projects have been developed according to the United States Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes.*[10] Note that while the projects have been numbered, they do not appear in priority order, and implementation of each project will depend on financing opportunities and fundraising successes.

Project 1: Edge Clearing

As discussed in the Assessment section, several species of plants have grown up along the cemetery's east west and south edges, including volunteer trees and invasive shrubs, resulting in a cluttered, messy appearance. Project 1 will begin to address the edges by saving only the highest quality trees and removing the other trees and shrubs. Part of the project will also involve removing and disposing of the large brush pile from the southeast corner.

Project 2: Fence and Sign Program

The triangular-shaped concrete posts rimming the cemetery are in poor condition, and just a portion are connected by either wood or wire mesh fencing, also in dilapidated condition. Project 2 will involve removing the posts and fencing and replacing them with a granite post and steel chain fence, constructed to enclose the entire cemetery. At the center point along the north edge, a set of larger granite posts, set six feet apart, will mark the entrance. The project will also include removal of the existing identification sign, design of a new sign program, and installation of identification and interpretive signs.

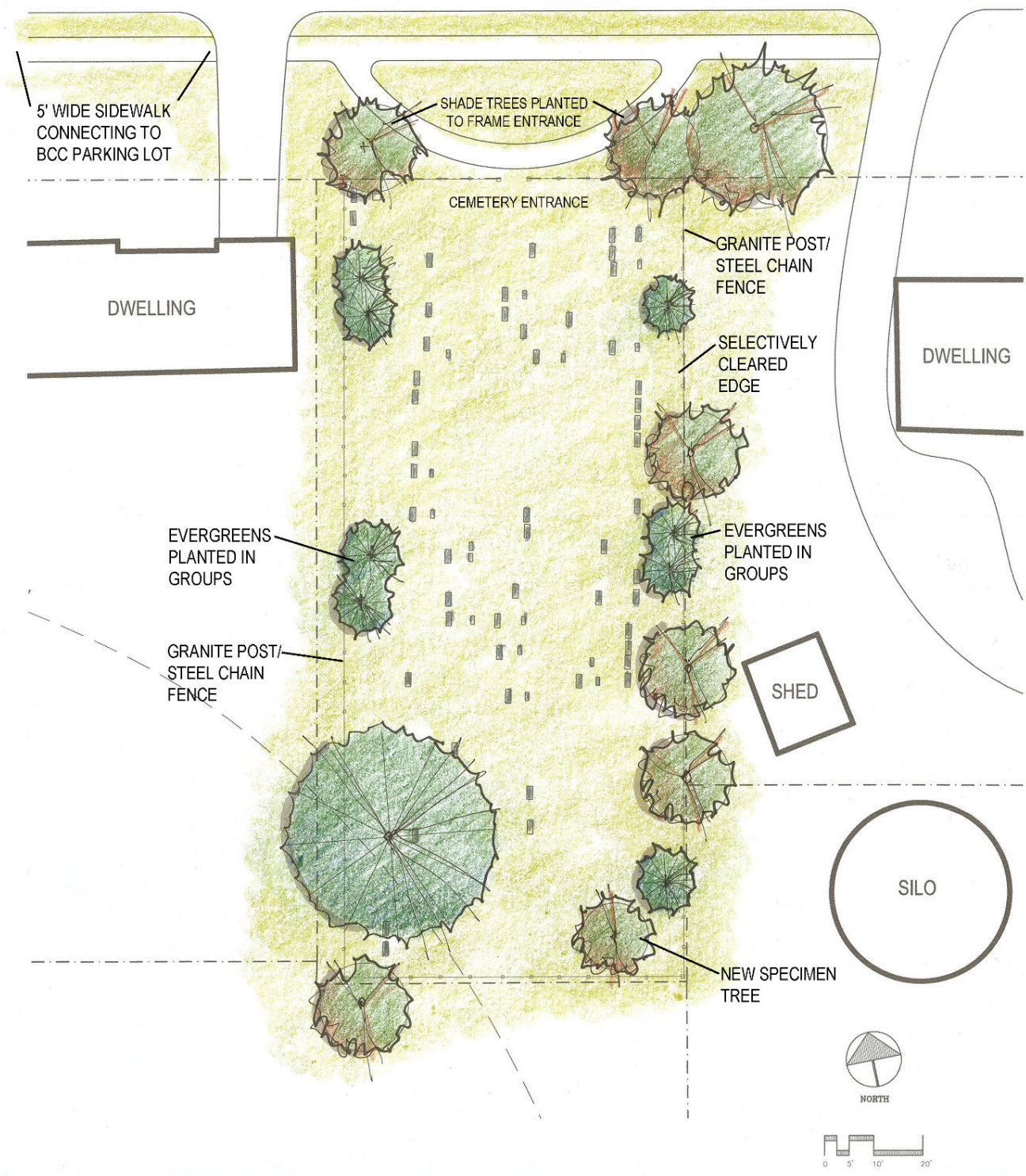
Project 3: Edge Planting

Project 3 will involve selective planting of new trees once the edges are cleared and the new fence is installed. Native species will be added to partially screen the back yards of the neighbors to the east and west, and in the southeast corner, a new specimen tree will be planted in the location of the former brush pile.

Project 4: Gravestone Conservation

Project 4 will involve conserving of 44 known gravestones (head and footstones) as identified in the *Gravestone Assessment* as in need of treatment. Nearly all stones will require re-setting (due to tilting or lack of a base), and some will require further investigation (probing) to pinpoint the precise

[10] Birnbaum, Charles A. and Christine Capella Peters, eds., U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Services, Cultural Resource Stewardship and Partnerships, Heritage Preservation Services, Historic Landscape Initiative, Washington, DC, 1996



West Part Cemetery recommendations (all projects) include edge clearing and replanting, fence and sign replacement, gravestone conservation, and construction of a new sidewalk leading from the Berkshire Community College parking area to the cemetery's entrance (drawing not to scale).

conservation need. *Note: This project may be undertaken in phases, with the severely leaning and fractured stones undergoing treatment first.*

Project 5: Cemetery Access
The final project will improve pedestrian access to the cemetery by installing a sidewalk leading southward from the easternmost parking lot of the Berkshire Community College campus; crossing over West Street at the entrance to the lot; and proceeding along the south edge of West Street to the cemetery. A crosswalk will be painted on West Street, and directional signage will guide visitors from the parking lot to the cemetery. *Note: this project could be undertaken by City crews.*

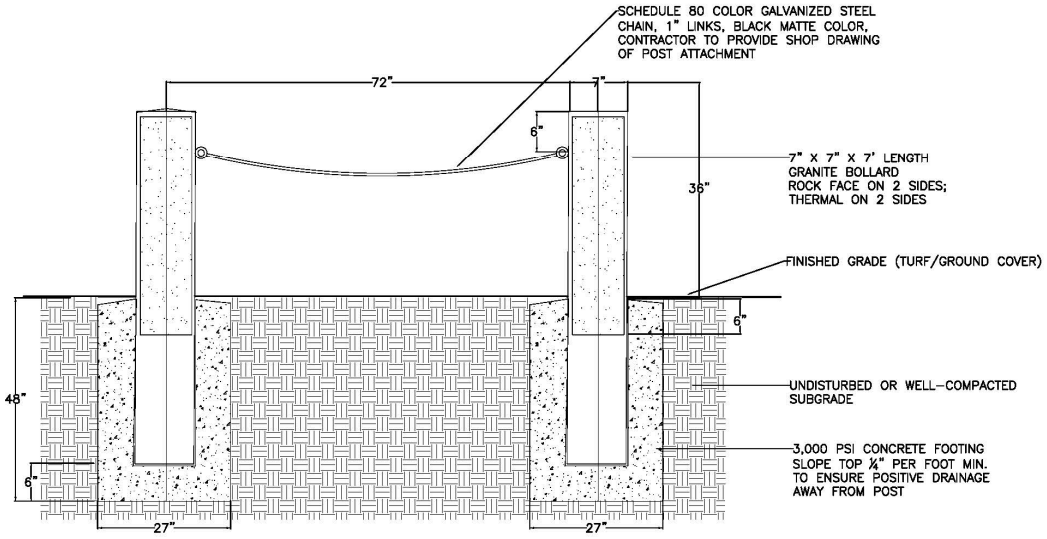
Preservation Budgets
The following are preliminary budget projections for preservation of the West Part Cemetery landscape, intended to be used in fundraising efforts only. The projections have been prepared at the planning level using 2021 construction industry estimates and do not include fees for archaeology, design and/or engineering. Actual costs of treatment and/or construction will change during design and/or engineering, construction detailing, and possibly during construction itself. Prior to commencing with any of the five projects, the City of Pittsfield should prepare more exact estimates that incorporate costs of precise materials to be used and current labor rates.

Project 1: Edge Clearing: $7,500 - $10,000
The budget for Project 1 includes removal (felling and stump grinding) of up to ten trees, a mass of invasive shrubs, and the large brush pile located in the southeast corner. In places where trees, shrubs and brush have been removed, the grade will be filled (as required), evened, and planted with perennial ground cover. Refer to the *Management* section of this plan for recommended ground cover species. *Note: removal of the mature white pine growing inside the cemetery is not included in this budget.*

Project 2: Fence and Sign Design/Fabrication/Installation: $25,000 - $30,000
Costs associated with Project 2 will include removal and disposal of concrete posts and wire/wood fencing, as well as the cemetery sign, and installation of new 7" square granite posts, a pair of 10" square granite entry posts, 10' square granite posts at each of the four cemetery corners, and steel chains to connect the smaller posts and corner posts (refer to detail on page 22). Sign replacement will require the services of a professional graphic designer, as well as costs to fabricate and install the identification and interpretive signs.

Project 3: Edge Planting: $4,500 - $6,000
Costs for Project 3 will include purchase and installation of up to nine trees. Eight will be located along the east and west edges (to screen the neighbors' back yards) and one will be planted near the southeast corner at the site of the brush pile (removed under Project 1).

Project 4: Gravestone Conservation: $15,000 - $18,000
Costs associated with Project 4 include labor and materials required to treat 44 gravestones identified as requiring conservation. The work should only be undertaken by a trained stone conservator, qualified to treat marble stones. Tasks will include cleaning, unearthing fragments, fabricating bases, resetting, and possibly repairing fractures.


SCHEDULE 80 COLOR GALVANIZED STEEL CHAIN, 1" LINKS, BLACK MATTE COLOR, CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE SHOP DRAWING OF POST ATTACHMENT
72"
7"
6"
36"
7" X 7" X 7' LENGTH GRANITE BOLLARD ROCK FACE ON 2 SIDES; THERMAL ON 2 SIDES
FINISHED GRADE (TURF/GROUND COVER)
6"
48"
UNDISTURBED OR WELL-COMPACTED SUBGRADE
3,000 PSI CONCRETE FOOTING SLOPE TOP ¼" PER FOOT MIN. TO ENSURE POSITIVE DRAINAGE AWAY FROM POST
6"
27"
27"

Granite post and steel chain fence detail proposed for Project 2. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

Project 5: Cemetery Access: $25,000 - $30,000

Costs for Project 5 will include construction of a 5' width concrete walkway, approximately 340 linear feet in length, painting a crosswalk, and fabricating and installing directional signs.

MANAGEMENT

This final section of the Preservation Plan provides a guide to managing the cemetery landscape over time. It includes strategies for care of plants (trees and ground cover), the fence and gravestones and provides a maintenance schedule. By following this guide, the City's crews, commissions, and volunteers will help safeguard the cemetery's health and make the resource more accessible and understandable to Pittsfield residents and visitors.

Management Log

Before the City begins caring for the landscape, the cemetery's caretaker – the City Parks Department – should set up a "management log," or ongoing written record of inspections, repairs, and instructions of new features, listed by date. The log should include methods and materials employed, as well as names and contact information for any specialists engaged in the cemetery's care. The log should be stored, in both electronic and manual format, in a secure location at the Parks, Open Space and Natural Resources Program office in City Hall.

New Plants

Planting Methods. When introducing new plants to the cemetery, the City should follow industry standards for planting of trees and ground covers. At a minimum, the City should adhere to the recommendations included in the planting details included in this section.

Trees. The Preservation Plan calls for the removal of several volunteer trees and replacement with new trees, arranged to screen the back yards of neighbors to the cemetery's east and west. When introducing new trees, the City should select species from a palette of plants that (1) are well-suited to Pittsfield's climate, and (2) reflect the cemetery's period of significance, 1813-1859. Where possible, the City should encourage the growth of native plant species. The following is a list of suggested tree species:

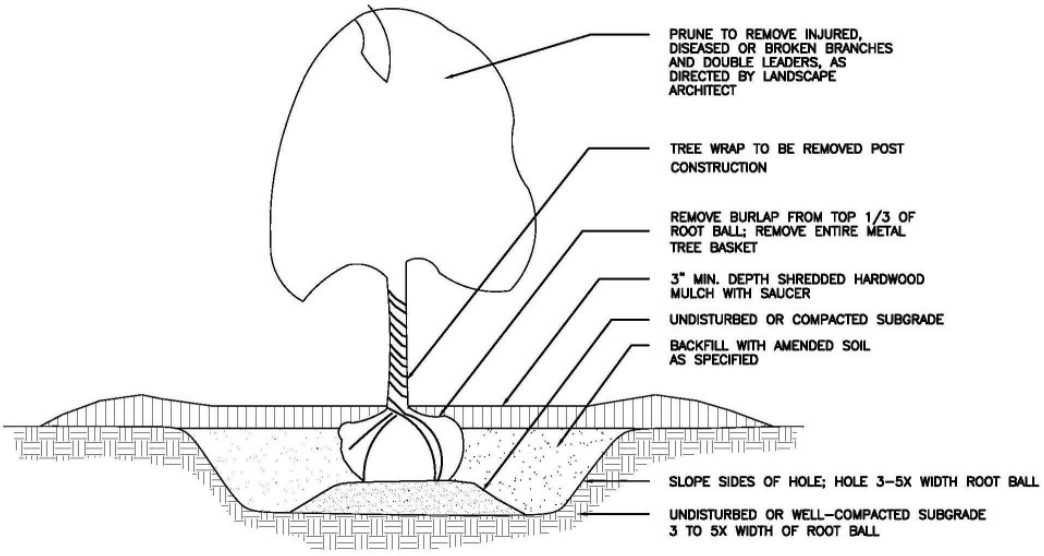
Evergreen Trees

*Abies balsamica***	Balsam Fir
*Juniperus virginiana***	Eastern Red Cedar
*Larix larcina***	Larch, Tamarack

Shade & Flowering Trees

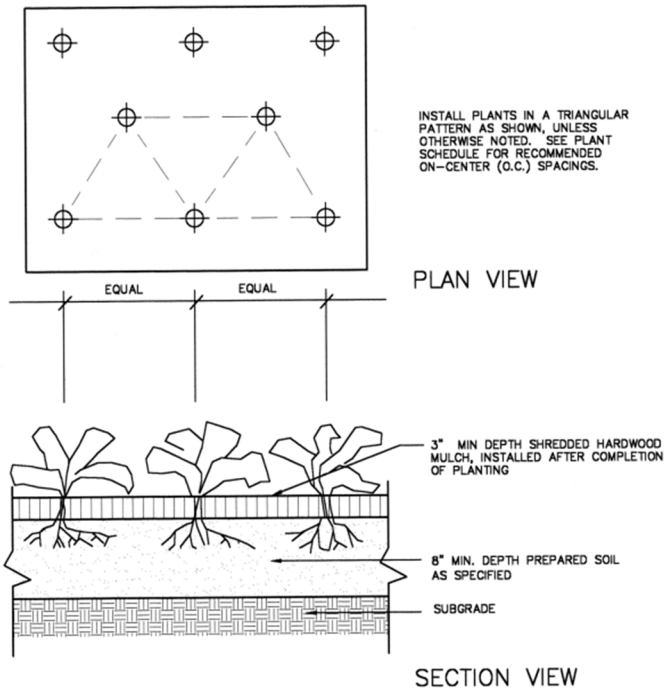
*Acer rubrum***	Red Maple
*Fagus americana***	American Beech
*Liquidambar styraciflua***	Sweetgum
*Liriodendron tulipifera***	Tulip Tree
*Nyssa sylvatica***	Northern Black Tupelo

***Native tree species*


PRUNE TO REMOVE INJURED, DISEASED OR BROKEN BRANCHES AND DOUBLE LEADERS, AS DIRECTED BY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
TREE WRAP TO BE REMOVED POST CONSTRUCTION
REMOVE BURLAP FROM TOP 1/3 OF ROOT BALL; REMOVE ENTIRE METAL TREE BASKET
3" MIN. DEPTH SHREDDED HARDWOOD MULCH WITH SAUCER
UNDISTURBED OR COMPACTED SUBGRADE
BACKFILL WITH AMENDED SOIL AS SPECIFIED
SLOPE SIDES OF HOLE; HOLE 3–5X WIDTH ROOT BALL
UNDISTURBED OR WELL–COMPACTED SUBGRADE
3 TO 5X WIDTH OF ROOT BALL

Tree planting detail. Note that the same general planting guidelines may be used for evergreen trees. New trees with a caliper greater than 3" to 3.5" are not recommended, as they require many years to acclimate to new settings, and often do not survive. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC

Ground Cover. The Preservation Plan recommends planting perennial ground cover, rather than turf, where the cemetery surface has been disturbed. This will include areas where trees and brush have been cleared, fencing has been removed and replaced, and gravestones have been unearthed and/or set in new bases. Ground covers minimize the need for mowing, particularly around gravestones and fence posts and in so doing, help preserve the longevity of these features. They also add beauty in the form of texture, color and scent, to the cemetery landscape. Pollinator ground cover species help support biodiversity, and should be used as often as possible, as should native species.


INSTALL PLANTS IN A TRIANGULAR PATTERN AS SHOWN, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. SEE PLANT SCHEDULE FOR RECOMMENDED ON–CENTER (O.C.) SPACINGS.
PLAN VIEW
EQUAL
EQUAL
3" MIN DEPTH SHREDDED HARDWOOD MULCH, INSTALLED AFTER COMPLETION OF PLANTING
8" MIN. DEPTH PREPARED SOIL AS SPECIFIED
SUBGRADE
SECTION VIEW

Ground cover planting detail. These low-growing species are recommended the cemetery to be used in lieu of turf, for ease in maintenance and for the color and texture they provide in the landscape. Source: Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC.

The following is a list of ground covers appropriate for the West Part Cemetery landscape:

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi ☙**	Bear Berry
Ajuga reptans ☙	Bugleweed
*Asarum canadense***	Wild Ginger
*Cornus canadensis***	Bunchberry
*Erythronium albidum***	White Trout Lily
Galium odoratum	Sweet Woodruff
Geranium maculatum ☙	Wild Geranium
Housatonia caerulea	Bluets
Pachysandra procumbens ☙**	Alleghany Spurge
Phlox stolonifera ☙ **	Creeping Phlox
Phlox subulata ☙	Moss Pink
*Potentilla tridentata***	Wineleaf Cinquefoil
Sedum ☙	Stonecrops
sp. reflexum, sp. cauticola	
sp. anglicum, sp. brevifolium	
Thymus serpyllum ☙	Creeping Thyme
*Viola Canadensis***	Canadian Violet
Waldsteinia fragarioides ☙**	Barren Strawberry

☙ *Pollinator Species*
***Native ground cover species*

Fence
The durable, long-lasting materials for the new fence (granite post and steel chain), if installed properly, should sustain itself without much care. Regardless, the City should implement the following management methods for delaying and/or inhibiting any premature deterioration:

- Clear volunteer tree, shrub, and vine growth away from the fence, and remove buildup of dead leaves. Allowing these to collect in and around the fence posts and chains not only contributes to decay, it creates an overall unkempt appearance, making the fence seem neglected and/or abandoned.

- Inspect the fence yearly for deterioration, such as leaning or chipping (of the painted chain surface). If deterioration is detected, make repairs as soon as possible, as deferred maintenance will add significantly to the long-term cost of upkeep.

Gravestones
The *Recommendations* section of this plan includes conservation of gravestones in need of treatment. This work must be carried out by trained professionals only. Under no circumstances should untrained individuals attempt to repair stones, as improper treatment of stones can lead to further deterioration. Conservation professionals will employ methods and materials that help stabilize the stones for many years, however because the stones lie exposed to weather, further deterioration is always possible. Should further damage occur, the City should consult a stone conservation specialist, before undertaking any type of repair.

MANAGEMENT SCHEDULE

January - March	▪ Inspect the grounds for evidence of theft and/or vandalism and report to Pittsfield Police Department; pick up any litter.
April	▪ Inspect the gravestones for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Consult a specialist about repairing any major damage. ▪ Remove leaves from around the fence posts
May	▪ Inspect trees for damage that may have occurred over the winter and note any needs for pruning and removals. ▪ Plant new trees and groundcovers, and seed grassy areas, as required.
June	▪ Conduct pruning and removals of trees. ▪ Continue to plant new trees and groundcovers, as required. ▪ Begin mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. Suspend mowing during hot, dry periods.
July	▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. Suspend mowing during hot, dry periods.
August	▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. Suspend mowing during hot, dry periods.
September	▪ Continue mowing turf on an as-needed basis to a height no less than 2-1/2 inches. ▪ Resume planting of new trees and groundcovers, as required ▪ Inspect gravestones for damage that may have occurred over the summer. Consult a specialist about repairing any major damage.
October	▪ Complete final leaf removal.
November - December	▪ Inspect the grounds for evidence of theft and/or vandalism and report to Pittsfield Police Department; pick up any litter.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

Beginnings – Before 1813.

Early 1700s.	The area that would encompass the City of Pittsfield was known as Pontoosuc[k], home to the native Mohicans, members of the Algonquian tribe. Pontoosuc meant "falls on the brook." (Huden, 194)
1738.	Bostonian Jacob Wendell purchased land in Pontoosuc for speculative purposes and attract two other investors.
1743.	A group of settlers from Westfield migrated north and west to Pontoosuc.
1753.	Pontoosuc Plantation was incorporated. It thrived in its initial years as an agricultural community, and also as a center of trade for communities in the Berkshires.
1761.	The plantation incorporated as the Township of Pittsfield with as many as 200 residents.
1776.	Following the Revolutionary War, Pittsfield continued as an agricultural center, but also turned to industry, including manufacture of wool-carding machines and looms. (By the 1840s, railroads were constructed that connected Pittsfield to Boston and New York, allowing for goods to be shipped regionally.) Manufacturing expanded in the early 1800s to include paper and shoes.
1801.	The first mention of funds for specific care of the poor appeared in the town budget.

Establishment & Active Years – 1813-1859

ca. 1813.	The first known interment was made at West Part, that of Frederick M. West.
ca. 1817.	Some type of facility was constructed on land across West Street from the cemetery to accommodate the sick and or poor. This may have been referred to at the time as the "pest house."
1831.	The Pittsfield Alms House, a facility that housed the indigent and poor, was officially established on land across West Street from the cemetery.
Mid-1800s.	Land in much of the West Part of Pittsfield was converted from agriculture to large residential properties. Abel West and sons John and

Gilbert, as well as George Nixon Briggs (19th Governor of Massachusetts) owned large tracts of land along West Street.

1850. The private, non-profit Pittsfield Cemetery officially opened and became the city's predominant non-denominational burying ground.

1851. The City Annual Report noted that there were an unusual number of deaths reported this year, and much sickness, especially at the Alms House. All of the residents ("inmates") were children, or sick and "crazy" men and women.

1852. Moses Foster, father of 54th Massachusetts Regiment private Moses Foster, died and was interred at West Part. The elder Moses was the son of Flora ("Old Flora") Foster, who escaped slavery in the 1780s, fleeing from New York to Massachusetts. She was taken in by Orrin Goodnell, and worked as a domestic for the Goodrich, West, and Pomeroy families. She married Peter Foster, and had a daughter (likely), Sabra (1804-1839) and a son, Moses (1812-1852), who married Orinda (1813-1859). In 1852 Moses died at the Pittsfield Almshouse (located across West Street from the cemetery), and seven years later Orinda died. Both Moses and Orinda are interred at West Part. (Levinson, 149) Moses and Orinda's son, Moses, served in the 54th Massachusetts Regiment. Information on Foster's association with the 54th Massachusetts Regiment is as follows (www.nga.gov):

Age at enlistment: 19
Enlistment date: 26 Dec 1863
Residence at enlistment: Pittsfield, MA
Profession at enlistment: farmer
Rank in: private
Rank out: private
Company: A
Fate at Ft. Wagner: survived
Mustered-out date: 20 Aug 1865

1858. The Walling map of Pittsfield depicted the cemetery on the south side of West Street, across from the Alms House, where J. B. Warner served as superintendent. Adjacent property owners included W. H Stevens and S. Harwood to the west, S. Butler, E. Mullen and J. C. West to the east, and A. West and D. Hart to the north across West Street. Members of the West and Mullen families are interred at the cemetery.

1859. The last known interment was made at West Part, that of Orinda Foster.

Neglect & Decline – 1860-1950s.

1869. Joseph Smith, in his history of Pittsfield, described the cemetery as "overgrown by woods and only recognized by a few sunken and moss-covered headstones, which may be seen by the traveler, on his left hand, as

he begins to ascend the mountain, on the road to Lebanon Springs. (vol. 2, 597)

1876. The cemetery appeared on the Beers atlas across West Street from what was referred to as the "Town Farm." Adjacent properties were occupied by the Smiths to the west, Butlers to the east, and Wests to the north.

1879. A newspaper article (publication unknown) stated, "The people of the West part have to mourn, among their losses by the late tornado, very serious injury to the little burial ground which, greatly to their credit, they had very tastefully adorned and planted with pines which had grown to a fine grove. The wind swept through it breaking off the tops of the greater part of the trees as sharply as though they had been cut with an axe and throwing them into the neighboring fields."

1888. The Berkshire Eagle reported that an architect had been working on plans for a new "pest house," intended to house patients with diphtheria, scarlet fever, and other infectious diseases in an isolated setting – patients who could not otherwise afford care. The design included a substantial brick structured, separate from other buildings at the Alms House. (8/2/1888)

1895. The Berkshire Eagle reported that the addition to the Alms House was completed this year. (2/7/1895)

1899. The Pittsfield Sun reported that the "poor house" standing across West Street from the cemetery housed Pittsfield's homeless, most of whom worked on the poor house farm. The property consisted of 80 acres with barns that supported 15 cows, poultry and swine, raised fodder, and grew sweet corn, cabbages, turnips, beets, and potatoes. (10/26/1899)

1906. The cemetery was included on a map of the City Farm, which consisted of 80 acres to the north and slightly west of cemetery (across West Street). Land surrounding the cemetery's south and west sides was referred to as the "Crosier Property," owned by the City of Pittsfield.

1937. The Berkshire Eagle reported that residents of the City Farm were undertaking nearly all of the tasks associated with running the farm, including managing maple sugar production. (3/30/1937)

1943. By the 1940s (and perhaps earlier), the City Farm was referred to as the City Infirmary.

1950s. Several volumes of the Knurow Collection (Berkshire Athenaeum) include information about West Part. The cemetery is the only burying ground owned by the City of Pittsfield (East Part is owned by the Pittsfield Cemetery). (vol. 6, 335) West Part of Pittsfield had two cemeteries, (1) on West Street near the City Farm. The oldest one (also on West Street) was

"on the left as one ascends the mountain on the road to Lebanon Springs (about where the school stood in 1876). (vol. 52/88)

Modernization & Preservation – 1950s-Present

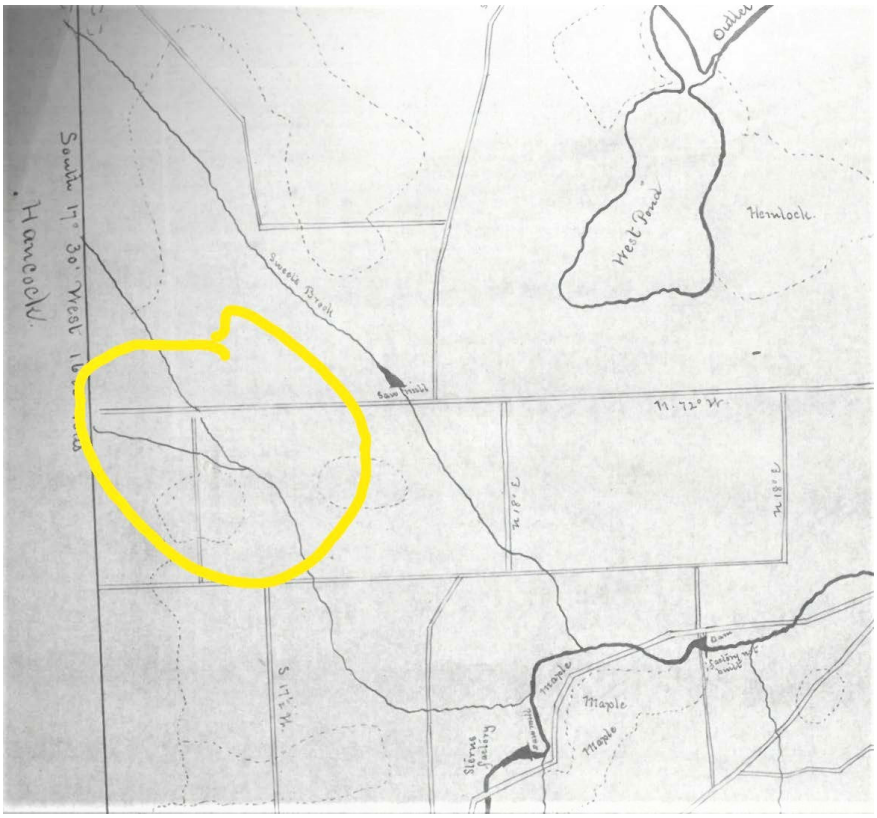
1972. The Berkshire Eagle reported that Roy Crosier, 82, approached the mayor, saying that the fence was beyond repair, and that a new one needed to be erected. (5/23/1970)

1972. The Berkshire Eagle reported that the volunteer youth corps offered to maintain the cemetery over the summer, without charge. "For years, the cemetery had been taken care of by Roy F. Crosier, at no charge. Crosier, 84, is a retired carpenter who lives next to the cemetery…Mayor Butler will have Sheriff Courtney to have a fence built around the cemetery with prison labor." (5/26/1972)

1981. An inventory form (FORM E) was prepared as part of the Pittsfield Historical Survey and Planning Project. In it, 48 gravestones were located. The preparer of the form noted that "an earlier burying ground existed on the old road to Lebanon Springs, New York, but little can be seen today. Several of the original settling lots for Pittsfield (originally known as Pontoosuc) were in the West Part."

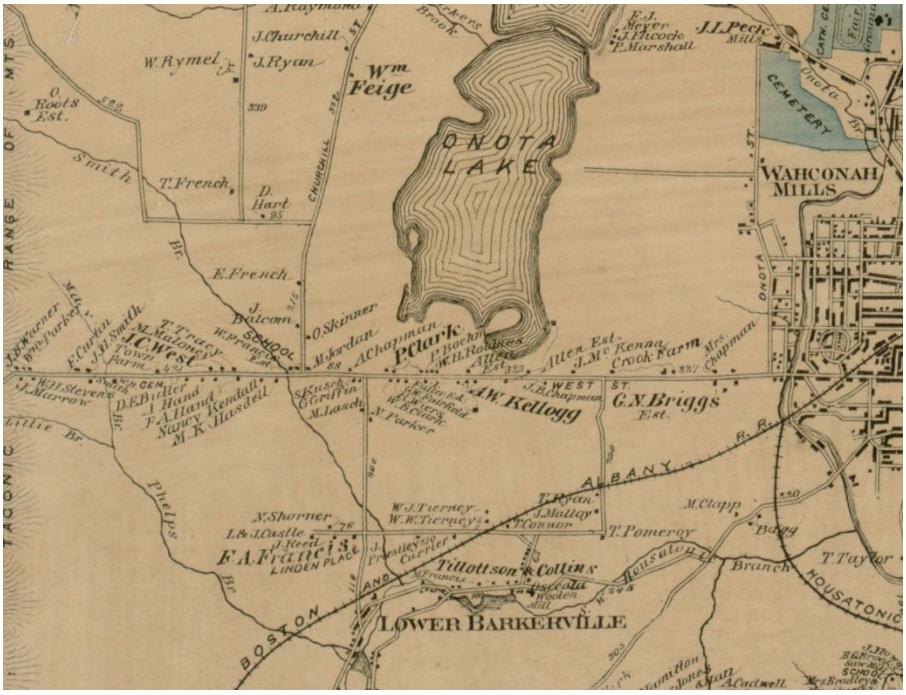
2003. An Eagle Scout took on the project of straightening headstones, removing brush and dead leaves, and repairing the fence.

HISTORIC IMAGES & PLANS

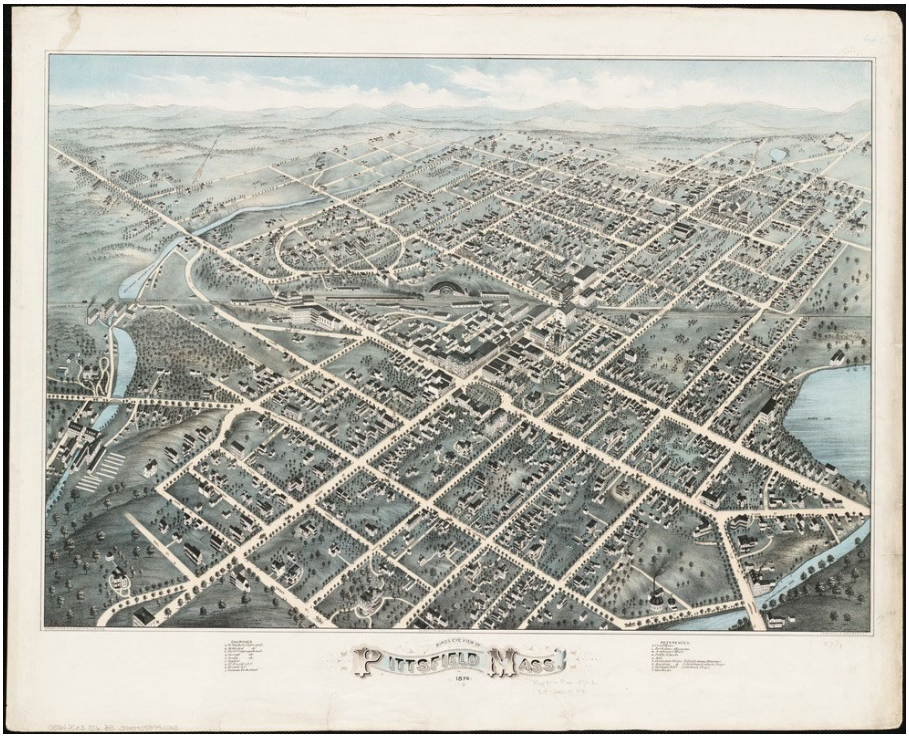


1830-1831 Pittsfield Map
(location of West Part Cemetery circled in yellow)

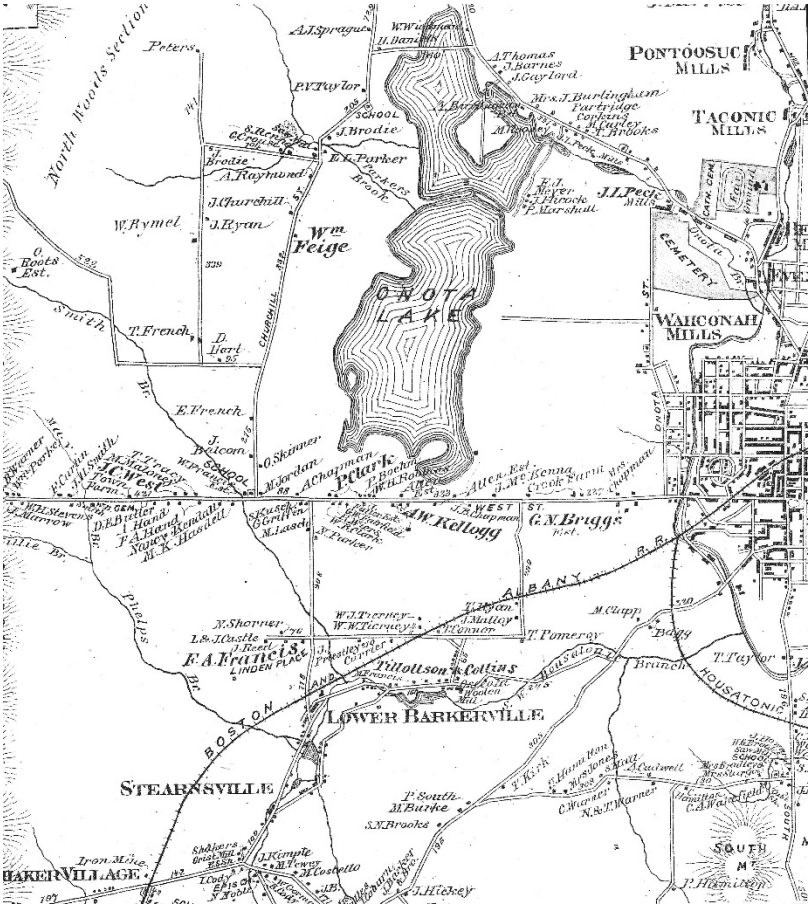
1858 Walling Map of Pittsfield
(Berkshire County Atlas)



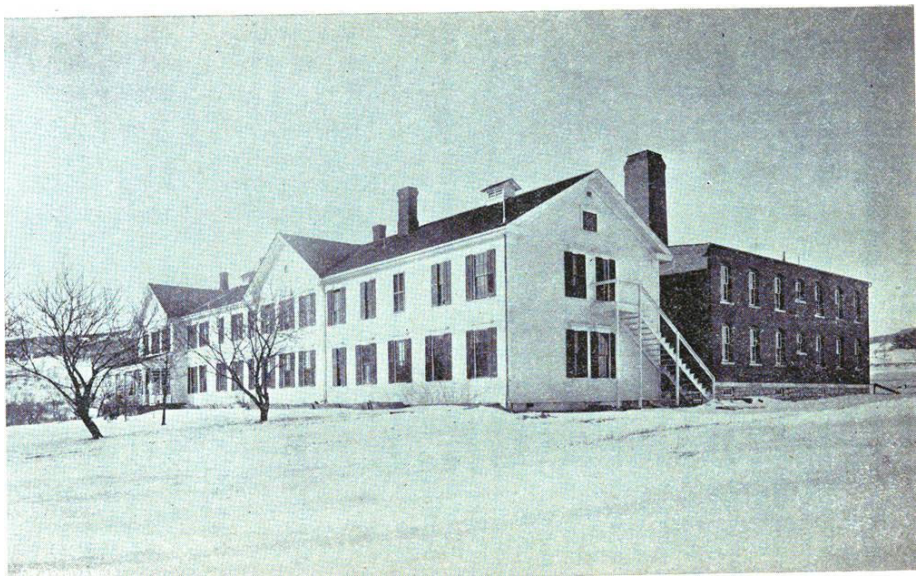
1876 F. W. Beers Atlas of Pittsfield (Berkshire County)



1876 Bird's Eye View of Pittsfield



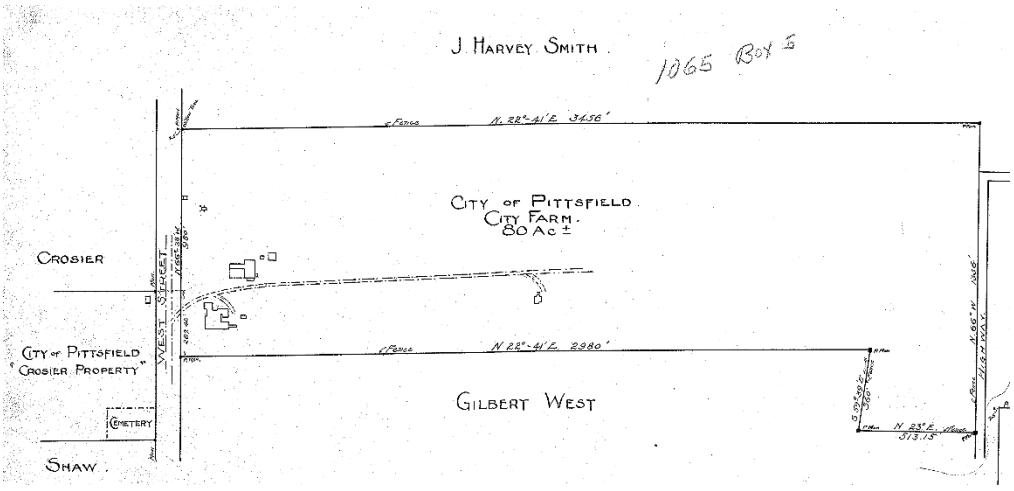
1876 F. W. Beers Atlas of Pittsfield, Berkshire County



1897 Pittsfield Alms House

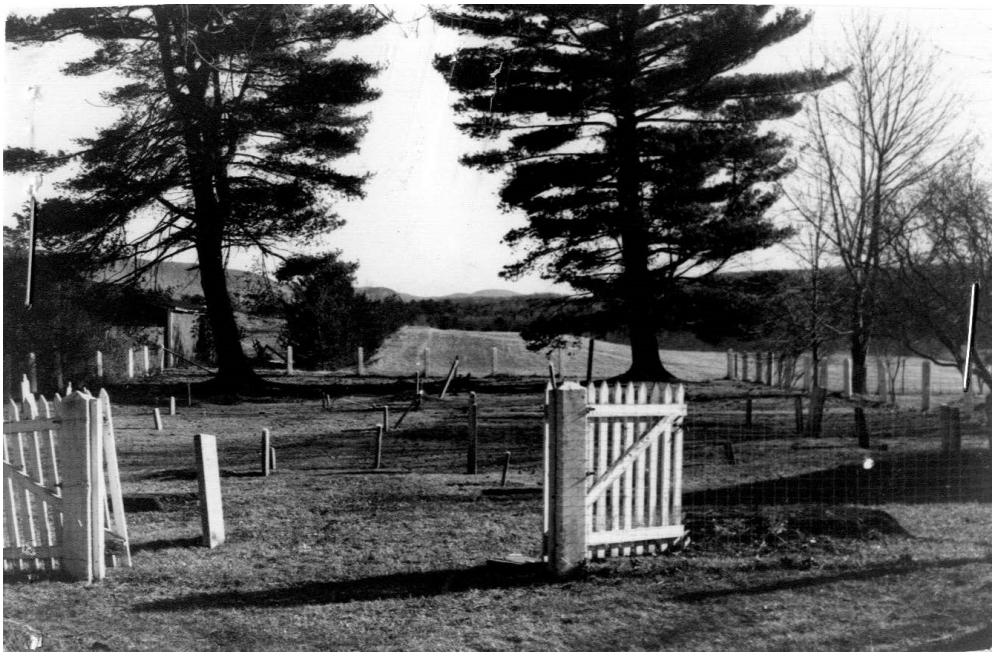
1899 Pittsfield Alms House

1904 Postcard View of Pontoosuc Lake from Constitution Hill



1906 Plot Map of City Farm Property

1934 City Farm



1981 Photo from MHC E–Form (PIT.825)

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Condition Assessments and Conservation Recommendations for West Part Cemetery, Pittsfield, MA April, 2021

Summary of conditions

The West Part Cemetery was inspected by Irving Slavid, a principal of MCC, on April 19, and 23, 2021. All markers were inspected and those requiring work were located and identified by map grid and marked in red on the map provided by Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture (page 3).

Detailed recommendations of methods and materials are included in this report.

There are about 65 markers in this small country cemetery, and 44 of these need conservation treatments (page 2). The largest group of these (30) are extremely tilted. This is an extremely high percentage of tilted markers, even in a neglected cemetery.

This condition can be due to fractures below grade leaving the marker with little support and a tendency to lean (and fall), or due to the freezing of extremely wet ground conditions, resulting in frost heaves, causing markers to tilt.
We believe this latter condition may be the cause of so many markers tilting.

MONUMENT CONSERVATION COLLABORATIVE LLC
PO Box 541, Norfolk CT 06058 860 307 6695 mcc-monument-conservation.com

Condition Assessments and Conservation Recommendations for West Part Cemetery, Pittsfield, MA April, 2021

Grid locations of stones requiring treatments.

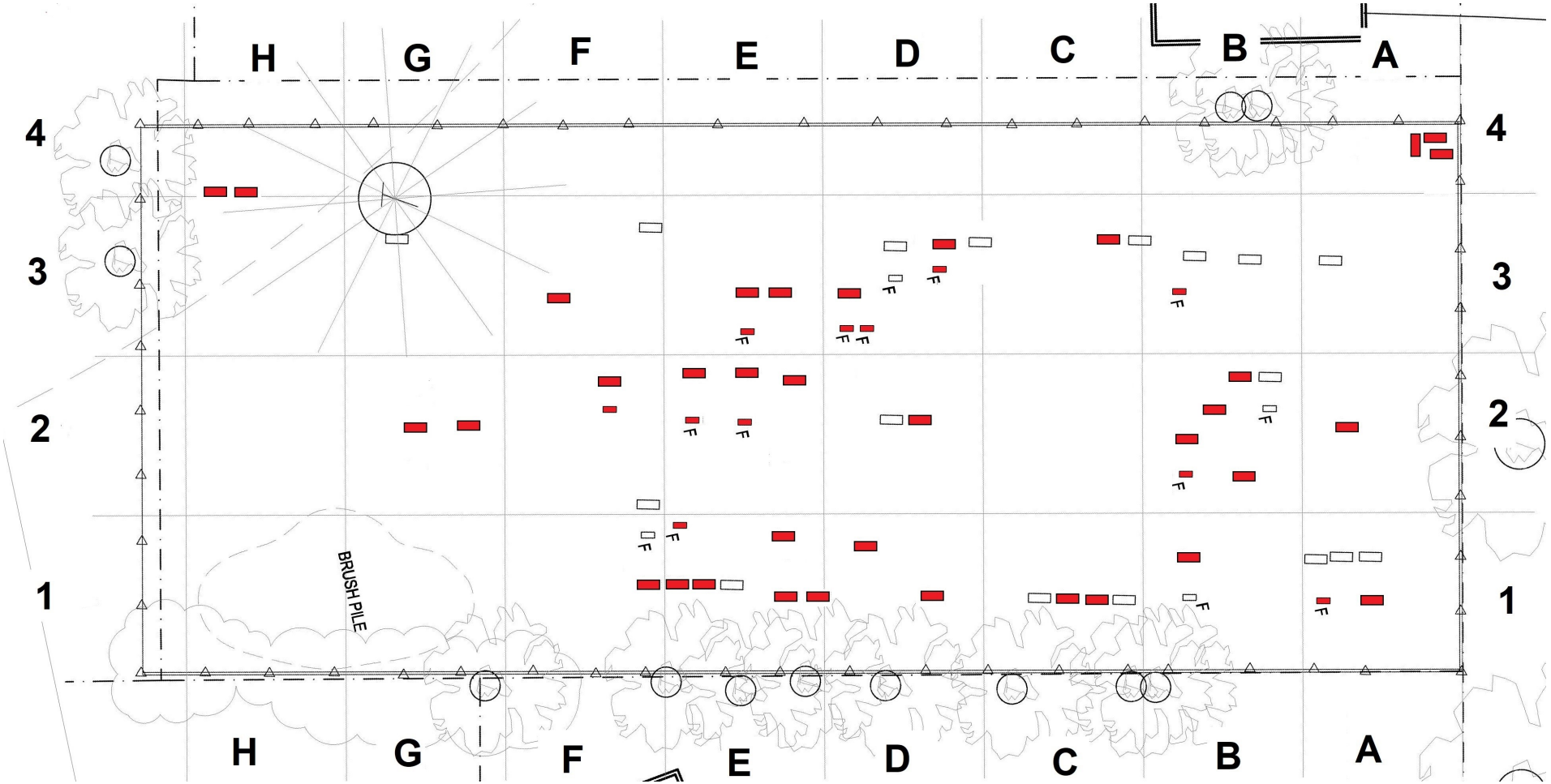
Grid	Name	Condition
1A.1	Samuel Cogswell	New base
1A.2 (F)	Samuel Bailey	Fallen, reset
1B.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1C.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1C.2	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1D.1	Lemuel Demming	Tilted, reset
1D.2	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1E.1	Mary Kenny	Tilted, reset
1E.2	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1E.3	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1E.4	n.a.	New base
1E.5	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1E.6 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
1F.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2A.1	Henry Brown	Tilted, reset
2B.1	n.a.	Fractured
2B.2 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2B.3 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2B.4 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2B.5	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2D.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2E.1	Henry Richmond	Poss new base
2E.2	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2E.3	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2E.4 (F)	"H.E"	Tilted, reset
2E.5	n.a.	Investigate

Grid	Name	Condition
2F.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
2F.2 (F)	n.a.	Investigate
2G.1	n.a.	Poss new base
2G.2	Sabra Foster	Tilted, reset
3B.1 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3C.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3D.1	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3D.2(F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3D.3	n.a.	Investigate
3D.4 (F)	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3D.5	n.a.	Tilted, reset
3E.1	Mary Mullen	Tilted, reset
3E.2	n.a.	Investigate
3E.3 (F)	n.a.	Investigate
3F.1	n.a.	Investigate
4A.1	Jonathan Stow	Investigate
4H.1	n.a.	Fractured
4H.2	n.a.	Tilted, reset

Most names are not available at this time. The stones are either heavily encrusted with lichen or substantially tilted towards the ground and not clear enough to be easily read.

Condition Assessments and Conservation Recommendations for West Part Cemetery, Pittsfield, MA April, 2021

Marker location map– Red markers require restoration



The 46 inscriptions on this page have been copied from the "Massachusetts Gravestones Photo Project" data base. They were uploaded onto their web site in 2012. https://magravestones.org/cemetery.php?cemID=361

Footstones are not included in this list. We cannot guarantee the information at this time.

Inscriptions from MGPP web site

ADAMS, Hannah	April 13, 1833	KNOX, Sarah Jane	
ADAMS, Lyddia	March 24, 1845	*Marrone, Donato (not on list)*	Sept 26, 1846
BAILEY, Samuel T	June 2, 1824	MAY, Andrew Jackson	*n.a.*
BAILEY, Sarah	May 7, 1826	MAY, Augustus C	Feb 3, 1822
BAILEY, Theodore	Aug 13, 1855	MAY, Lemuel A	Oct 19, 1817
BEARDSLEY, Mary	Oct 18, 1824	MAY, Leverett Deming	Nov 13, 1825
BROWN, Henry J	Dec 28, 1825	MCMURRAY, Caroline	June 12, 1832
COGSWELL, Samuel E	June 16, 1820	MCMURRAY, Caroline A	Mar 16, 1846
COGSWELL, Sarah		MULLEN, Mary A	Feb 20, 1844
COGSWELL BAILEY, Sarah		MULLIN, Nancy	Aug 3, 1834
Estabrook, Emma (not on list)	*1911*	PALMETER, Susanah	Jan 19, 1848
FOSTER, Moses + Orinda	Oct 14, 1852	PEIRCE, Lewis	June 3, 1834
FOSTER, Sabra	Jan 5, 1839	PHELPS, Luther	May 3, 1840
Foster, Yamme (not on list)	*1838*	RICHMOND, Henry A	Feb 21, 1826
FULLER, Corintha Ann	May 11, 1829	ROOT, Clarissa	Sept 7, 1839
FULLER, Hannah	Sept 13, 1851	POMEROY (?) ROOT, Clarissa	Jan 13, 1814
GRAY, Miranda	Jan 14, 1854	SPRAGUE, Charlotte	
GRAY, Samuel	June 24, 1856	STOW, Jonathan	
HIRST, Delia A		WARNER, baby	Dec 11, 1813
HIRST, Frank		WARNER, Francis M	
HUBBARD, Jane E	Seot 20, 1835	WEST, Addison L	Nov 20, 1851
HURLBUT, Thomas	Dec 9, 1842	WEST, Frederick M	Oct 16, 1816
KENNY, Mary	Jan 27, 1814	WOOD FULLER, Hannah	Oct 14, 1813

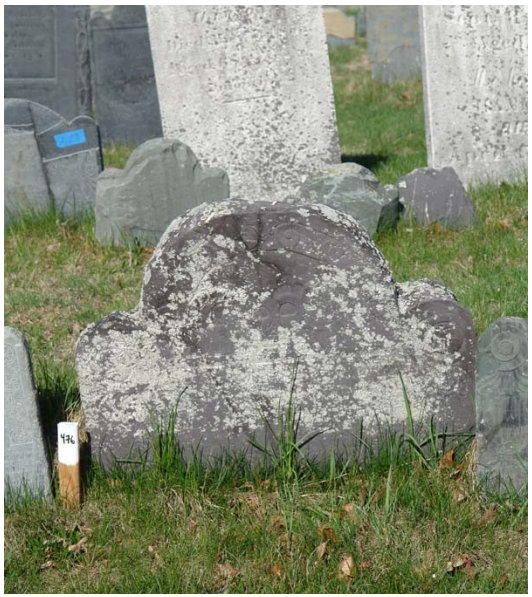
Cleaning

The goal of cleaning is not to return the monument to a "like new" appearance, but to remove particulate soiling, staining and biological growth that may interfere with successful restoration. In most situations, cleaning will be done prior to other treatments.

Other markers such as slate, schist and sandstone can be successfully cleaned without disturbing the overall aesthetics.

West Part Cemetery Marker 2B.5

This marker will become legible after a light cleaning



Typical slate marker, benefitting from cleaning

When cleaning, both aesthetic and technical considerations should be considered.

Removal of biofilm is with D/2 Biological Solution. It is an aqueous antibacterial solution that also aids in the removal of algae, fungi and other organisms. After application and scrubbing with soft brushes, surfaces are fully rinsed with water. Stubborn, well-attached growths will slowly release their grip in a short amount of time and the stone will appear cleaner.

Failed adhesives, mortars and pins are carefully removed before proceeding with new conservation treatments. Mechanical removal to be done with hand tools and smaller power tools.

Resetting Tilted and Sunken Markers

Earlier gravestones are typically long panels of stone that were set directly into the ground. After determination of the correct location and orientation of the stone, soil is removed to an appropriate depth. Gravel (or broken stone) is introduced to establish a stable base.

The stone is made plumb and level, and set in plane with the adjacent markers. Backfilling to be done with sand and gravel, wetted and compacted. Replace disturbed areas with the existing topsoil and turf.

Tilted stones in West Part Cemetery

18th century markers often have as much below the ground as above. Only upon excavating this marker for re-setting does the very massive below grade portion becomes apparent..

Since the existing factors causing these conditions are below grade and are not discovered until excavation, there can be a number of possible conservation treatments..

Breaks at, or just below grade are very common. This condition will require new bases, since the success of below and near grade attachments with structural adhesives is limited.

Fabrication of a base may also be necessary to re-erect the upper fragment of earlier gravestones that now do not have adequate height for proper re-setting, i.e., for positioning to permit the viewing of inscription and decoration.

A new below-grade base is also fabricated when an original base cannot be located, or an existing base is damaged beyond repair.

Resetting Tilted and Sunken Markers Cont'd

Resetting into existing bases

In many cases, markers have been set into below grade bases either originally or at a later date upon fracturing. When discovered, these bases can often be uncommonly deep, more than one foot.

Older bases should be carefully excavated, examined for soundness and reset level at a higher elevation and aligned with adjacent markers.

Old base removed from its setting location and inspected for soundness

When excavating for resetting often original, or old bases are discovered

Old base reset higher and aligned with adjacent markers

Gravestones that required insertion into existing bases are to be set with a relatively weak cement/ lime-based grout (3:2:9:1) with fine aggregates (000), made fluid with a high-range water reducer which ensures a complete fill. This mix is poured into the base slot.

Stones to be braced for a minimum of three days to limit movement during curing of the grout.

Resetting Tilted and Sunken Markers Cont'd

Re-setting in new base

A new below-grade base is fabricated when an original base cannot be located, or an existing base is damaged beyond repair or, most often, the marker is fractured at or near the ground.

New below grade bases are made on site by casting in the ground with concrete. The casting is generally 9 to 12 inches deep, and 12 inches greater in thickness and 6 inches wider than the stone itself. The finished top surface of the base should be entirely below grade.

Formwork for new base

A form insert for a 1-inch deep setting slot, 1/2 inch wider and 1 inch thicker than the stone, is positioned in the concrete, in line with adjacent markers.

Poured base with form insert for setting slot

After the base has cured, the form is removed, and the area backfilled. The gravestone is reset into the slot using a cement/lime mortar (3:2:9) with 00 or 000 sand, made fluid with a high-range water reducer which ensures a complete fill.

After stones are set plumb and level, and braced for a minimum of three days, topsoil is added to re-grade the disturbed area..

New base ready for resetting

Resetting Tilted and Sunken Markers Cont'd

Re-setting on/in existing base, cont.

When the gravestone has (typically) broken just above an existing slotted base, stone fragments may have to be removed from the slot and the bottom of the gravestone re-squared. Even with power tools, this is a time-consuming and arduous task.

Example of marker broken just above existing base

Removing slot fragments with power tools

The original base for this marker may be discovered by probing, or a new below grade base may be required.

Stones are set with a mix of cement/lime/sand (3:2:9) with 00 or 000 sand made fluid with a high-range water reducer which ensures a complete fill.

Set plumb and level, and braced for a minimum of three days to limit movement during curing of the grout.

Example of bracing after re-setting with mortar.

Fractures-

Most broken markers can be re-assembled with structural adhesives, without pinning. Bonding is dependent upon the soundness, cleanness and conformation of the fractured surfaces, factors often associated with the age of the break.

The properly-aligned fragments are joined with clamps, and braced during curing, which is typically a period of several days. Any extra epoxy flowing from clamped joints should be left to partially cure for 24 hrs before attempting removal, and carefully chipped off. The slight gap created is concealed with a crack filler.

Marble gravestone, before and after restoration

Example of bracing and clamping

Although the use of pins is not typically recommended for routine adhesion, complex breaks sometimes require drilling and structural pinning for safer reassembly. (Larger voids can be spanned by these pins to provide an armature for restoration mortars.)

Structural adhesion

All bonding surfaces to be carefully cleaned and the fragments dry fitted. Aboweld 55-22 (Abatron, Inc.), a thixotropic, moisture-insensitive two-part epoxy, is thinly and evenly applied along both surfaces of the glue line, keeping slightly back from the edge of the break.

Where pinning is required, threaded stainless steel rods are recommended, the diameter not more than 1/3 the thickness of the stone, and the total depth of the pin equal to 8 to 10 times its diameter, set in a two-part epoxy.

PRODUCTS/SUPPLIERS

D/2 Biological Solution

Granite City Tool
11 Blackwell Street Barre, VT 05641
802) 476-3137

Jahn™ Restoration Mortars

Cathedral Stone Products Inc.
7266 Park Circle Drive
Hanover, MD 21076 USA
800 684 0901 fax 800 684 0904

Adhesives
Aboweld 55-22

Abatron Inc
5501 95th Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53144
414 653 2000 fax 414 653 2019

VoidSpan PHLc

VoidSpan Technology
34 Boardman St
Salem MA 01970

#1A.1 Samuel Cogswell
New base

1A.2 Samuel Bailey(F)
Fallen, reset

1B.1
Tilted, reset

1C.1
Tilted, reset

1C.2
Tilted, reset

1D.1 Lemuel Demming
Tilted, reset

1D.2
Tilted, reset

1E.1 Mary Kenny
Tilted, reset

1E.2
Tilted, reset

1E.3
Tilted, reset

B-12

#1E.4
New base

1E.5
Fallen, reset

1E.6 (F)
Tilted, reset

1F.1
Tilted, reset

2A.1 Henry Brown
Tilted, reset

2B.1
Fractured

2B.2 (F)
Tilted, reset

2B.3 (F)
Tilted, reset

2B.4 (F)
Tilted, reset

2B.5
Tilted, reset

2D.1
Tilted, reset

2E.1 Henry Richmond
Poss new base

2E.2
Tilted, reset

2E.3
Tilted, reset

2E.4 (F) “H.E”
Tilted, reset

2E.5
Investigate

2F.1
Tilted, reset

2F.2 (F)
Investigate

2G.1
Fallen, poss new base

2G.2 Sabra Foster
Tilted, reset

3B.1 (F)
Tilted, reset

3C.1
Tilted, reset

3D.1
Tilted, reset

3D.2(F)
Tilted, reset

3D.3
Investigate

3D.4
Tilted, reset

3D.5 (F)
Investigate

3E.1 Mary Mullen
Tilted, reset

3E.2
Investigate

3E.3 (F)
Investigate

3F.1
Investigate

4A.1 Jonathan Stow
Fallen, investigate

4H.1
Tilted, reset

4H.2
Tilted, reset

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1858. Walling, 1858

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1876. Pittsfield, Mass., Bird's Eye View of Pittsfield, 1876

1894. Map of Pittsfield, 1894

1906. City Farm Property, 1906

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1897. Pittsfield Alms House

1899. Pittsfield Alms House

1904. View of Pontoosuc Lake from Constitution Hill (colored postcard)

1981. Massachusetts Form E Burial Ground, PIT.825) (photograph)

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Massachusetts 54th Regiment: The 54th Massachusetts Regiment: C to H (nga.gov)

Mohican History: https://www.mohican.com/origin-early-history/